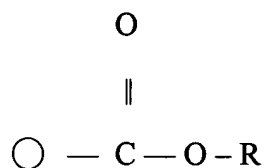


ABSTRACT

Translucent soap compositions comprising soap base and a translucency-enhancing amount of benzoate ester are disclosed. The benzoate ester has the general structure:



where R is a C12-C15 Alkyl, an alkyl group of C8 to C20, or a phenylethyl group. The translucent soap composition may further comprise a surfactant, namely, nonoxynol-10 carboxylic acid. Also disclosed is a method of making translucent soap compositions and a method of improving the translucency of opaque, translucent and transparent soap base.